

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

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Policy Reference No: 5001

Effective Date: January 7, 2013

Supersedes: August 1, 2008

5001 TRAUMA TRIAGE CRITERIA

I. PURPOSE

To identify patients meeting trauma criteria including those requiring base hospital contact before transport to the San Francisco General Hospital.

II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, 1797.67, 1797.198, and 1797.204, 1798.160,

California Code of Regulations Title 22, §100248, 100252, 100255.

American College of Surgeons,-National Guideline for the Revised Field Triage of Injured Patients 2021

III. CRITERIA FOR TRANSPORT TO A TRAUMA CENTER

Patients meeting one or more of the following in any category shall be transported to the trauma center:

A. Physiologic Criteria

1. Glasgow Coma Motor Score < 6 (unable to follow commands)
2. Systolic Blood Pressure: age 0-9y <70 +2X Age, years
Age 10-64 < 90 or HR>SBP
Age 65+ <110 or HR>SBP
3. Respiratory Rate for adult < 10 or > 29 per minute
4. Room Air Pulse Oximetry <90%

B. Anatomic Criteria

1. All gunshot wounds.
2. All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso and extremities
3. All blunt trauma with suspected significant chest, abdominal or pelvic injury.
4. Flail chest.
5. All burns or inhalation injuries associated with trauma.
6. Suspected or confirmed two long bone fractures
7. Suspected or confirmed Pelvic fractures.
8. Limb paralysis.
9. Amputation or near-amputation proximal to wrist and ankle.
10. Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity.
11. Open or depressed skull fracture.
12. Multi-system trauma.
13. Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure

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C. Mechanism of Injury

1. Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
2. Pediatric falls > 15 feet
3. High risk auto crash:
 - a. Intrusion into passenger compartment > 12 inches or > 18 inches on any site
 - b. Ejection from vehicle (partial or complete)
 - c. Death of another passenger in same compartment
 - d. Need for extrication of entrapped patient
 - e. Child 0-9 unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat
7. Motorcycle crash:
 - a. Initial speed > 20 mph
 - b. Separation of rider from bike while in motion
8. Auto-pedestrian or bicycle injury:
 - a. Thrown or run over or significant impact

IV. BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT

Contact the Base Hospital to determine whether patients who have not met physiological, anatomic, or mechanism of injury criteria, but have underlying conditions or comorbid factors that place them at a higher risk for injury. These include:

1. Patients < 5 years and >65
2. Anticoagulants and bleeding disorders
3. Time sensitive extremity injury
4. End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
5. Abdominal injuries and restraint use in children
6. Pregnancy > 20 weeks
7. EMT-P concerns or judgment.
8. Suspicion of child abuse